

What Is the Connection?

In Grade 6, you learned about plants, animals, and the relationship between living things and the natural environment. You have also experienced these things in your daily life. In any natural environment, each component is important and affects the other components. Components of a natural environment include sunlight, soil, water, air, plants, animals, and other living things.

1. Select one of the components listed above. In your notebook, explain how the component affects the other components.
2. Form a group of six. As a group, create a concept map showing the connections between the different components (Figure 1). Once you have marked a connection, include a label indicating what the connection is. For example, in Figure 1 the label “plants need sunlight to grow” indicates the connection between sunlight and plants. Each component may have more than one arrow.
3. Each group will then share their ideas with the rest of the class. You may want to show your concept map to the class and act out your findings in a skit. Your teacher will record all the ideas.

4. Based on the ideas from the concept maps, write a paragraph explaining how the different components in a natural environment depend on each other. Be sure to use what you learned in previous grades in addition to what you noted from the concept maps.

LINKING TO LITERACY

Concept Maps

A concept map helps you make connections between words, pictures, and concepts or ideas. Connect these with arrows. Next, add words along the arrows to explain each connection.

Concept maps are used for different purposes. On this page, you are asked to create a concept map to brainstorm what you already know about a topic. Can you think of other reasons for using a concept map?

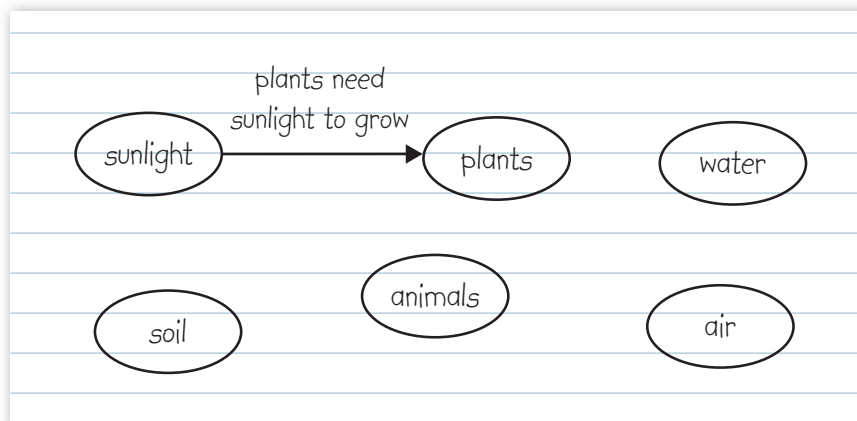


Figure 1